

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
GAINESVILLE DIVISION**

RITA SANDERS LUSE, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	CIVIL ACTION
v.)	
)	NO. 2:16-CV-30-RWS
SENTINEL OFFENDER)	
SERVICES, LLC, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

**NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION, PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
AND FINAL APPROVAL/FAIRNESS HEARING**

The above-referenced lawsuit was filed as a proposed class action against Sentinel Offender Services, LLC (“Sentinel”), and Sentinel probation officer Stacy McDowell-Black. The lawsuit alleges that Sentinel and McDowell-Black unlawfully required probationers sentenced by the White County Probate Court to submit to and pay for drug screening that was not authorized by the Probate Court. Sentinel and McDowell-Black deny that their conduct was unlawful.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia has entered an order certifying a class (the “Class”) made up of each person who meets the following criteria:

1. The person was sentenced to probation by the Probate Court of White County, Georgia;
2. The person’s sentencing order did not specifically authorize drug testing;
3. The person was subjected to drug testing by Defendants on or after February 17, 2012; and
4. The person was not under a written order by another court specifically requiring the person to submit to drug testing by Defendants.

Records show that you may be a member of the Class and, for that reason, you may be entitled to receive a payment pursuant to the terms of a settlement agreement that has been reached with respect to the lawsuit. The settlement agreement is available for review at www.schr.org.

The settlement agreement provides that Sentinel will allocate up to a total of \$80,000 for the entire Class Fund, which will be distributed to individual Class Members as follows:

1. Each responding Class Member will be entitled to a Restitution Amount for any fees paid in connection with unauthorized drug testing conducted on or after February 17, 2012, with interest of 7 percent per year calculated from the date of payment; and
2. Provided that the Class Fund is sufficient to reimburse each responding Class Member for any fees paid, with interest, each responding Class Member will be entitled to a Damages Amount not to exceed \$90 per unauthorized drug test conducted on or after February 17, 2012.

In the event that the \$80,000 Class Fund is insufficient to pay the full \$90-per-test Damages Amount to each Class Member, the Damages Amount will be reduced proportionally across the Class.

In the event that the Class Fund is sufficient to provide the full Restitution Amount and full \$90-per-test Damages Amount to each responding Class Member, any money remaining in the Class Fund will be returned to Sentinel after each responding Class Member has been paid.

Defendants have agreed to pay the attorneys for the Class \$25,000 in attorney's fees and costs if the settlement agreement is finally approved. The attorney's fees will not impact the amount of money paid to the Class Members.

Sentinel has also agreed to reimburse the named plaintiffs \$7,500 each for their services. These payments will not impact the amount of money paid to the Class Members.

In order to receive payment, each member of the Class must complete Section I of the Response Form that is attached hereto, and return that form to the following address *no later than June 3, 2017*, which is the deadline to submit claims:

Southern Center for Human Rights
Attn: Luse Settlement
83 Poplar Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Assuming that you are a member of the class, a check for the amount of money that you may be entitled to receive will be mailed to you at the address shown on the Response Form. For that reason, it is important that you include the address at which you receive mail and notify the attorneys for the Class of any subsequent change of address.

Please note that, if the Court gives its final approval to the settlement agreement, regardless of whether you submit a Response Form, if you are a member of the Class you will be barred from filing any lawsuit against Sentinel, Stacy McDowell-Black, and their respective agents, officers, employees, officials, and personal representatives as a result of unlawful drug testing during the period covered by the settlement.

If you do not want to be bound by the terms of the settlement agreement, you may opt out of the Class by completing Section II of the Response Form and returning it to the address shown above *no later than* **June 3, 2017**. If you opt out of the Class, you will not be prohibited from asserting any claims that you may have against Sentinel or Stacy McDowell-Black. However, if you opt out, you will not receive any payment to which you may be entitled under the terms of the settlement agreement.

If you are a member of the Class, you may object to the terms of the settlement agreement by filing a written objection in the above-referenced lawsuit *no later than* **June 3, 2017**. Any such objection should be mailed to the Clerk of the United States District Court, whose address is 2211 United States Courthouse, 75 Ted Turner Drive SW, Atlanta, GA 30303-3309. The letter should reference this lawsuit (including the case number listed at the top of this notice) and include: (1) a statement of each objection being made; (2) a detailed description of the legal authorities underlying each such objection; (3) a statement of whether the objector intends to appear at the final approval/fairness hearing; (4) a list of witnesses who the objector may call by live testimony, oral deposition testimony, or affidavit during the final approval/fairness hearing; and (5) a list of the exhibits that the objector may offer during the final approval/fairness hearing, along with copies of those exhibits. Any Class Member who does not file an objection within the time and in the manner described above will be forever barred from raising any objection to such matters in the event that the Agreement is approved by the Court.

In addition, the Honorable Richard W. Story will conduct a fairness hearing with respect to the terms of the settlement at 10:00 a.m. on **July 5, 2017**, in the United States Courthouse & Federal Building, 121 Spring Street SE, Room 201, Gainesville, GA 30501-3789. You may appear at that hearing and voice any objection that you have to the settlement agreement.

Finally, if you are a member of the Class, you may enter an appearance in the lawsuit through an attorney if you so desire or seek to intervene in the lawsuit. Any request for intervention must be made by motion and must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. All entries of appearance and motions to intervene must be filed *no later than* **June 3, 2017**. Any Class Member who does not file a request for intervention in the time and manner described above is forever prohibited from seeking intervention in this lawsuit.

If you have any questions, you may contact an attorney for the Class:

Southern Center for Human Rights
Attn: Luse Settlement
83 Poplar Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: (404) 688-1202